



CALI CATALYST

Guidelines

(effective July 6, 2023)

CALI Catalyst provides unrestricted grants of up to \$7,500 to California changemakers who are shifting the arts and culture sector in ways that tangibly give underrepresented voices more power and influence.

CALI Catalyst launched in 2021 to provide support and validation to individuals who are taking extraordinary actions to upend the status quo that has held the arts and culture sector back from realizing greater inclusion and equity and whose frontline work is resulting in visible shifts. We can look to recent CALI Catalyst grantees like Los Angeles-based APT Action Group, which is organizing with artists nationally to challenge exploitative practices in the arts, or Oakland native Alistair Monroe, who is fighting for artists and cultural producers to have safe live-work spaces; and Amador County arts workers Meghan O’Keefe and Elizabeth Grandsaert, who are each centering LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC voices in a hostile cultural and political landscape.

Individuals who take bold actions do so with risks to their jobs, social standing, and reputations. But this is precisely the moment when the arts and culture sector can embrace and support people who are changing the field in ways that work better for marginalized people—BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and those with disabilities. The arts and culture sector is better for it when strong voices and actions, for example, expose discriminatory hiring and employment practices that plague the arts and culture nonprofit and commercial industries, disrupt philanthropic practices that harm communities, and dismantle barriers to entry for artists and arts workers to be supported. The CALI Catalyst grant program is meant to give such leaders financial support, understanding that the fear of financial risk is, itself, a silencer and discourages changes to the status quo.

To help ensure that the momentum for field-wide change continues undeterred, CALI Catalyst will support artists and arts workers who are on the frontlines of effecting greater inclusion, access, diversity, and equity in the arts and culture sector.

CCI is honored to have supported 39 individuals and teams whose bold and inspiring actions are cultivating an arts and culture sector that we want and need. Learn more about the inaugural 2021 and 2022 recipients through their visual directories [here](#).

ELIGIBILITY

CALI Catalyst applicants can be individuals or teams of individuals.* To be **eligible** for funding consideration:

- Applicants must be artists or arts workers (e.g., arts administrators, cultural producers, culture bearers, creatives, cultural practitioners, teaching artists, or specialized technicians).
- Applicants must reside full-time in California.
- Applicants' change-making action(s) must have occurred or commenced (i.e., the action is still in progress) on or after January 1, 2020.

*Only one application will be accepted per team (i.e., individual team members cannot submit separate applications that describe the same action). Teams will therefore need to select a single team member to apply, and if funding is approved, this individual will be responsible for fulfilling the grant requirements. Review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for more details.

The following are **ineligible** for funding consideration:

- Organizations (e.g., nonprofits, for-profits, fiscally sponsored organizations);
- Individuals or teams of individuals who describe a change-making action that began or took place before January 1, 2020;
- Individuals or teams of individuals who are requesting funding to support an organization;
- Individuals or teams of individuals who have a conflict of interest (family or financial relationship) with the board, staff, or directors of the Center for Cultural Innovation; and
- Incomplete applications or applications with inaccessible (e.g., password-protected, broken links) attachments.

AWARD DETAILS

- Unrestricted grants of up to \$7,500 will be awarded.
- Year One (2023) of CALI Catalyst's three-year award cycle has \$112,500 in available funding, which will support approximately 15 grantees.
- Grantees will be invited to one or more virtual gatherings in November 2023 to connect with other CALI Catalyst award recipients.

CALI Catalyst will prioritize grant support for the following:

- Applicants whose bold actions (**2020 or later**) are upending the status quo that has held the arts and culture sector back from realizing greater inclusion and equity by **tangibly** helping underrepresented communities—including Black, Indigenous, people of color, LGBTQIA+, and people with disabilities—gain more influence and power at industry-wide levels. By “tangibly,” we are referring to actions that resulted in visible, measurable, and concrete impacts.
- Applicants who played a causal role in the change that occurred (i.e., they decidedly influenced change at an industry level).
- Applicants who reside in a non-metropolitan region.
- Applicants who have not previously received CALI Catalyst funding.

REVIEW PROCESS & CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed internally by a diverse team of CCI staff who have varied experiences with sector discrimination, exclusionary practices, and the power of artists and arts workers to have profound impacts. Additionally, CCI contacts the references of top funding candidates and calls on individuals in

the field of a competitive applicant's work. In so doing, the people directly meant to benefit from an individual or team's work influence the adjudication process.

Applications will be evaluated based on their ability to establish the following:

1. Impact on arts and culture sector

- *Is the applicant's change-making action shifting entire sectors, such as the entirety of the museum or theatre sectors, to move away from the status quo?*
- *Are there tangible and measurable ways that the applicant is helping underrepresented communities gain more power and influence (e.g., through governance authority, causal "changing of the guards," or shifting industry or regulatory policies and practices)?*
- *Did the applicant play a causal role in the catalyzing change that was realized? In other words, was the applicant's role seminal enough that change would not have occurred without their involvement?*
- *NB: Applicants whose actions directly resulted in tangible industry-level impacts will be more aligned with the grant review criteria than applicants whose actions are described as having the potential for impact.*

2. Intention to enact greater inclusion, access, diversity, and equity

- *Is the applicant's change-making action aimed at helping underrepresented communities gain more influence and build power in the arts and culture sector?*

3. Informed perspective

- *Does the applicant have direct experience with the arts and culture sector, and are they of an underrepresented community?*

CCI does not take a position on the sentiments or actions expressed by CALI Catalyst applicants and grantees. This ensures that the adjudication process focuses on sector and community impacts and not on individual institutions or actors.

APPLICATION

In addition to answering the application's narrative and demographic questions and providing support materials (**Application Previews** in both .doc and .pdf formats available [here](#)), applicants must provide the names and contact information of two references who can speak to the review criteria above. CCI will only contact the references of top candidates for funding, and we strongly suggest references who can speak on behalf of the communities the applicant has positively impacted. In addition, CCI may call on individuals in the field of a competitive applicant's work. For more information, review the [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Please note that reference calls do not guarantee funding approval.

HOW TO APPLY

CALI Catalyst will offer two open application rounds in 2023. These are:

Round #1

Applications will be accepted from March 8 to May 3, 2023, at 12 p.m. PT (noon). Notifications will be sent on July 5 by 5 p.m.

Round #2

Applications will be accepted from June 1 to July 27, 2023, at 12 p.m. PT (noon). Notifications will be sent on September 28 by 5 p.m.

Access the CALI Catalyst online application at:
<https://centerforculturalinnovation.submittable.com/>

Applications will be accepted online ONLY through CCI's Submittable platform, and applicants MUST create an account in Submittable before they can access the grant application. Learn more about using Submittable [here](#).

If you need technical assistance (e.g., password or upload issues), request support at: <https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/>. Submittable's business hours are 9 am – 5 pm MT. They aim to respond within 24 business hours.

DELIVERABLES

Grantees must complete a brief final report describing the impact and use of funding (i.e., line item expenses). Reports will be due within 12 months of signing the grant agreement. Additional details are available in the **Frequently Asked Questions** [here](#).

CCI will also host one or more virtual community-building gatherings for the 2023 CALI Catalyst grantees in November 2023. This will be an opportunity for grantees to connect and learn about each other's work. More details will be provided in the CALI Catalyst grant agreement.

QUESTIONS & FEEDBACK

CCI staff are here to help and listen. Please email us at cali@cciarts.org or call 415.288.0530 for assistance. For Deaf applicants and those with hearing loss, contact CCI using the [California Relay Service](#)—our staff are trained in making and receiving these calls.

If you need technical assistance (e.g., password or upload issues), request support at: <https://www.submittable.com/help/submitter/>. Submittable's business hours are 9 am – 5 pm MT. They aim to respond within 24 business hours.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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